

in New Brunswick on Grand Manan and at Lower Caraquet, Gloucester Co. (*W. G. Dore & E. Gorham, 45. 790*). This cosmopolitan species of muddy coasts was added to the flora of Nova Scotia by *M. S. Brown's* discovery of these stations.

Prenanthes racemosa Michx. Digby Co.: cliff-edge, Sandy Cove, *R. Erskine*, Aug. 8, 1948. This is the first collection of the species from the Nova Scotian mainland, but Macoun had reported it from Sydney Mines in Cape Breton.

WOLFVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA

NEW ZEALAND BOTANISTS¹—On December 5, 1642, Abel Janszoon Tasman left Anthony van Dieman's Land for the islands of Solomon. Instead of his destination thirteen days later he reached what he named Staten Land, later changed to Nova Zeelandia. But it was not for two hundred more years that New Zealand was botanically explored beyond the fringes of her three principal islands. In fact, it was not until 1853–55 that J. D. Hooker's *Flora Novae-Zeelandiae* was published, the first tabulation of the plant life. Of the total of 1571 vascular plants known in 1925, three-fourths are peculiar to the islands. 366 native species are common to other regions, chiefly Australia, but 108 species are common to South America and New Zealand. How this distinctive flora was made known is the theme of this attractive little volume.

The botanical exploration of New Zealand began Friday, October 8, 1769, when Cook landed at Poverty Bay—named because of the disappointing flora that the party encountered there. For the next seventy years reconnaissance was made by the British, French and American governments climaxing with the colonization by the British in 1840. In the first period of New Zealand's botanical history were visits by Allan and Richard Cunningham, Ernst Dieffenbach, John Carne Bidwell, and briefer visits by Archibald Menzies, Dumont D'Urville, Charles Darwin, etc. Each of these explorers in Miss Glenn's book is characterized more, however, by his discoveries than by his personality. This impersonal quality is, perhaps, the weakest thread in the fabric of her writing. Put aside the book and it is hard to recall a bit of anecdote that high-lighted more than one or two of the nearly thirty persons accounted for.

It is easier to personalize the figures that fall in the second period of botanical exploration or the last one hundred and ten years. Here appear such familiar figures as J. D. Hooker, who came on the *Erebus* as surgeon and naturalist, just as Dr. David Lyall served on the companion ship, the *Terror*, to chart the "Southern Ocean" and investigate terrestrial magnetism. From Hooker and Lyall's exploration of the main Auckland and Campbell islands came the material for Hooker's classic *Flora Antarctica* (1844); illustrated with 80 plates and describing 100 species, it is notable that the collections for this work were made in less than a month! Foremost resident botanist was Rev. William Colenso, who came in 1834 in time to guide Darwin the following year when he visited the islands on the voyage of the *Beagle*. Dr. Andrew Sinclair, surgeon with the H. M. S. *Sulphur*, which visited the coast of Lower California, reached New Zealand in 1841. Sinclair collected particularly on North Island and sent fine sets of plants to Kew. Unfortunately he was

¹ *Botanical explorers of New Zealand*. By Rewa Glenn. A. H. & A. W. Reed, Wellington, N. Z., pp. 176, 6 plates, frontispiece in color, 1950. 13s. 2d.

drowned in 1861 when fording the Rangitata River before he published any important paper on the island flora. Then follow David Monro, physician, sheep rancher, magistrate, who was knighted by Queen Victoria; W. T. L. Travers, Lieutenant, barrister, and his son Henry, both field collectors; the geologist Julius von Haast, who named the Franz Josef Glacier and for whom Hooker named the cushion composite genus *Haastia* of the "Southern Alps." James Hector, geologist in both Canada and New Zealand, and director of the New Zealand Institute, falls in this period. Better known to us is the forester Thomas Kirk, author of the *Forest Flora of New Zealand*, lecturer at Wellington College and the principal writer on forestry in the islands. Foremost of New Zealand botanists for field exploration and for the extent of his writings is Leonard Cockayne. Finally there is the museum curator, founder of a field naturalists' club, and author of the comprehensive *Manual of the New Zealand Flora* (ed. 2, 1925), T. F. Cheeseman. These essentially contemporary figures are more fully characterized from family sources.

The book is without any documentation but is indexed; in fact the index reads like Lloyd's register of British ships: *Acheron*, *Alligator*, *Asiatic*, *Aurora*, *Bangalore*, *Beagle*, *Bengal Merchant*, *Betsy*, *Bounty*, *Buffalo*, *Chatham*, *Clio*, *County of Carnarvon*, *Cuba*, *Discovery*, on to *Terror*, *Tory*, and *Virago!* Scented names they are full blown down the winds of history.—JOSEPH EWAN, TULANE UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS.

WOLFFIA COLUMBIANA IN METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS.—While botanizing along the Merrimack River in Methuen on November 4, 1951, the pool at the mouth of Sawyer Brook was found to be covered by a mixture of *Lemna minor* L. and *Wolffia columbiana* Karst. *Wolffia* was not found at the mouth of Griffin Brook, a short distance upstream, or at the mouth of Bartlett Brook, a short distance downstream, although conditions were similar. Additional specimens were collected by Mr. Bean on November 11. Specimens will be deposited in the herbaria of the New England Botanical Club, Boston University, and the Peabody Museum of Salem.

Wolffia columbiana seems to be either a rare plant or a rarely collected species in New England. R. J. Eaton¹ mentions Lake Champlain; three localities in Connecticut; and two in Massachusetts, a collection made in Holyoke by W. E. Manning in 1933 and one made by Eaton in Concord in 1938. The Flora of Connecticut lists five additional localities in that state. Our station is the third record for Massachusetts, the first record for Essex County, and this note possibly sets a record for promptness of publication.—STUART K. HARRIS AND RALPH C. BEAN.

¹ Eaton, R. J. 1939. *Wolffia columbiana* in Concord, Massachusetts. RHODORA 41: 42, 43.

Volume 53, no. 634, including pages 229-248, was issued 22 October 1951.